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International Scientific Cooperation

Dr Marc Fortin meets his counterpart at ARS

On May 22, 2008, Dr Marc Fortin met with Dr Ed Knipling, his counterpart at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the United States Department of Agriculture. They share points of view on the state of the two organizations. Two main topics were discussed: the governance of research for national organizations and the evolution of partnerships with universities and the private sector. Both Dr Fortin and Dr Knipling reconfirmed their will to enhance scientific cooperation as part of the latest Memorandum of Understanding that they signed on March 17th, for 2008-2013, in priority areas such as nutrition, food safety and quality, animal and crop production and protection, and bio-products.

Mr. Caird Rexroad, Dr Ed Knipling, Dr Marc Fortin, Dr Christiane Deslauriers, Mrs. Antoinette Betschart, Mrs. Kay Simmons and Dr Yvon Martel

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

Tetrapartite 2008 hosted successfully by INRA in Bordeaux, France, June 8-11th, 2008

Tetrapartite meetings are held annually by the heads of the public research organizations in United States, France, United Kingdom and Canada. They included: the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS); France's National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA); the United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC); the Scotland's Rural and Environment Research and Analysis Directorate, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Discussions focused on the management of research in public organisations, the evolution of partnerships with universities and private sector and the new challenges in food and human nutrition. The Canadian presentations were made by Dr Yvon Martel and Dr Gilles Saindon, Dr Christiane Deslauriers and Dr Susan Tosh. Public organisations are more involved in research on nutrition and social sciences, and want to enhance multidisciplinary research using the "platforms" concept. The next Tetrapartite meeting will be held in Scotland.

Participants to the Tetrapartite 2008 organised by INRA

AAFC interested to cooperate with France's INRA on bibliometrics

On June 12, 2008, Dr Guy Ruba of INRA organized a trilateral meeting attended by the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS-USDA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to discuss bibliometrics.

Three objectives were identified: 1) evaluation of research fields such as horticulture; 2) evaluation of national and international collaboration levels and trends; and 3) evaluation of agronomic values of scientific publications. The next step will be to define indicators of interest to Canada. This will be accomplished by sending two individuals to INRA in October 2008 for training and later for leading a team of Canadian scientists who could develop an action plan for Canada.

Other topics presented at the meeting included project assessment and intellectual property management.

Mrs. Odile Hologne, Mr. Bernard Teyssandier, Mr. Guy Riba and Mrs. Elisabeth de Turckheim all from INRA

Mr. Wilbert Blackburn from USDA and Dr Christiane Deslauriers, Mrs. Nathalie Corbeil, Dr Yvon Martel and Dr Gilles Saindon from AAFC

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

International networking sponsored by INRA and CIRAD on the integration of research

The International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (Dr Yvon Martel) participated to an international meeting entitled "Partnerships, Innovation, Agriculture." The meeting, sponsored by the Institut National de la Recherche (INRA) and the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), took place in Paris on June 3rd, 2008. AAFC participated in a panel on new challenges facing integration of teams and various scientific disciplines.

At the same time, INRA and CIRAD launched a foresight study "World Food and Agriculture Systems in 2050 (in French only)". The objective is to provide a tool to identify agronomic research priorities.

Dr Yvon Martel, Mrs. Isabelle Bordier, Mr. Bernard Chevassus au Louis, Mr. Michel Dodet and Mr. Bernard Charpentier

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

Seventh Meeting of the Taiwan-Canada Agricultural Working Group

The Seventh meeting of the Taiwan-Canada Agricultural Working Group took place in Taipei, Taiwan, on April 21st, 2008. The meeting, attended by 30 people, covered various topics, including regulations, safety, trade access, and science collaboration. Dr Johanne Boisvert (ISCB) described Research Branch activities and outlined different possibilities for scientific cooperation. Taiwan will look into providing opportunities and incentives to its scientists to acquire scientific training in AAFC laboratories.

On April 22, 2008, a workshop on livestock traceability was organized by Taiwan. Canada presented our National Agriculture and Food Traceability systems for livestock and poultry,

prepared by Dan Lutz, André Dagenais, and Debra Harper from AAFC, as well as AAFC traceability research done by Dr Gilles Doyon's team. Taiwan is well advanced in implementing food and swine traceability programs.

Seminar on Traceability related to Meat & Meat Products at the Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Tainan, Taiwan

Contact: Dr Johanne Boisvert

Taipei National Science Council looking for science cooperation with AAFC

On April 23, 2008, Dr Johanne Boisvert, ISCB, and Mr. Hugh Moeser, Deputy Director at the Canadian Trade Office in Tapei, met with Prof Ching-Ray Chang, Director General, Mrs. Jennifer Hu, Director of International Cooperation and Prof. Ching-Fong Chang, General Manager, Life Sciences Deparment, the three from the National Science Council (NSC) in Taipei. They discussed the possibility of establishing collaboration with AAFC in the area of bioproducts, swine nutrition, and graduate students training. Back in Canada, Dr Johanne Boisvert met with Dr Ting-An Wang, Director of the Science and Technology Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Canada. This division serves as liaison office of NSC in Canada. The meeting included a discussion on a pilot project to host Taiwanese graduate students in AAFC laboratories next year. Prof. Chang will visit Canada in September 2008.

Mr. H. Moeser, Prof. Ching-Fong Chang, Dr Johanne Boisvert, Mr. Ching-Ray Chang, and Mrs. Jennifer Hu

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council meets with ISCB

Mr. Herb McLane, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Beef Breeds Council, met with the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB) to share views on the role of AAFC research related to international activities. He first discussed biodiversity, which is important to beef producers. Biodiversity starts at home, he affirmed, where some 25 of the more than 30 breeds in Canada are in danger. The situation is similar in many parts of the world, as Mr. McLane was able to observe as a member of the Canadian delegation which negotiated the Global Plan of Action on Farm Animal Genetic Resources in August 2007.

On the trade side, there are some 40 markets worldwide for Canadian beef. Many advanced technologies are being developed in the United States, European Union, Australia and Canada. Many countries, including Russia, are interested in Canada and share potential markets, Today, more countries have funding to buy beef cattle, and they would like to obtain technology and training as part of the deal. The beef industry believes that access to technology should be paid for, and technology transfer should be carried out by Canadian industries.

Dr Yvon Martel and Mr. Herb McLane

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

High technology industries interested in agriculture in emerging economies

On May 15, Bonnie Harris, Account Executive, Central Canada and Brad Schmidt, Vice President, Sales, both from PCI Geomatics, met with Dr Yvon Martel in his office. PCI Geomatics is a company specializing in the use of satellite imagery for agricultural applications. The company has offices in Canada, Scotland, India, and the U.S., and plans to open one soon in China. Already active in Canada, PCI Geomatics has expressed interest in cooperation at the international level. With its extensive knowledge in the use of software, the company is looking to collaborate with people who are knowledgeable about agriculture, an area which could greatly benefit from PCI Geomatics' applied technology. The company has shown interest in participating in technical showcases or workshops organized by the Government of Canada. The company is also keen to promote Canadian technology worldwide, through such channels as the AAFC's R&D Matching

Investment Initiative.

Mrs. Kian Fadaie, Dr Yvon Martel, Mrs. Bonnie Harris, Mr. Brad Schmidt and Dr Johanne Boisvert

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

United Kingdom company interested in Canadian technologies

On May 22nd, 2008, Gary Caldwell of Caldwell Bio Fermentation Canada Inc. and Simon Gorman of Vitality Food met at the AAFC Food Research and Development Centre in Saint-Hyacinthe in an effort to transform their mutual passion into a business opportunity which could ultimately lead to other opportunities tied to international scientific cooperation.

Michel Brisson, investment attaché at the British Consulate-General in Montreal, Dr Tony Savard, an expert in the area of food fermentation, and Carole Morneau, Chief Liaison Officer, Science and Trade for the ISCB, also attended the meeting.

They discussed launching a possible cooperation between the British and Canadian governments on the one hand, and on the other, between industry partners Caldwell Bio Fermentation Canada and Vitality Food, for the bio-fermented product market in the UK. The parties involved agreed on the basic principles of this type of project: the importance of scientific resources for improving the quality of fermented foods; marketing the innovative product deemed essential to the development of the bio-fermentation market; and finally, the product's congruency with British consumers' expectations, which is part of project viability.

Should this project materialize, Canada's leadership and the expertise of Canadian researchers in the agro-food sector would once again be highlighted, as well as the importance of international cooperation in the areas of science and innovation. More discussions will take place soon, but the parties have already agreed on a food research cooperation agreement for the purpose of adapting existing products and technologies to the British market.

Mr. Simon Gorman, Dr Tony Savard, Mr. Michel Brisson and Mr. Gary Caldwell

Contact:
Clelia Martrès
Tony Savard

Gold Harvest Award for Brad Fraleigh and the Canadian team negotiating the First Global Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources

Dr Brad Fraleigh (International Scientific Cooperation Bureau), was part of the team that received the Gold Harvest Award for negotiating the first Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. The team's work helped create a better understanding of the importance of animal genetic resources to food security and the threats to the sustainability of these resources. The team was honoured on June 18th in Ottawa during an official ceremony chaired by AAFC Deputy Minister, Yaprak Baltacioglu. The awarded team included Mr. Stan Benda (Senior Legal Counsel), Dr Brad Fraleigh (ISCB, Head of delegation), Mrs. Kathryn McKinley (Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the U.N.), Dr Ken Richards (Manager, Canadian Animal Genetic Resources Program), and Dr Yves Plante (Research Scientist, Canadian Animal Genetic Resources Program). Congratulations to all recipients!

Mrs. Yaprak Baltacioglu, Deputy Minister; Mr. Stan Benda, Dr Brad Fraleigh, Mrs. Kathryn McKinley, Dr Ken Richards, Dr Yves Plante and Mrs. Liseanne Forand, Associate Deputy Minister

Contact: Dr Yvon Martel

Dr Yvon Martel honoured by the Ordre des agronomes du Québec

On June 6, 2008, Mr. Conrad Bernier, president of the Ordre des agronomes du Québec (OAQ) appointed Dr Yvon Martel Commandeur de l'Ordre du mérite agronomique (Commander of the Order of Agronomic Merit). This is the highest distinction awarded by the Ordre des agronomes du Québec for "outstanding services rendered to the agricultural profession". Dr Martel received this distinction at the closing ceremony of the OAQ's annual conference held in Drummondville this year.

"Agronomy has always been central to my life, this is why I am more than honoured to receive such a distinction" declared Dr Yvon Martel.

Mr. Conrad Bernier and Dr Yvon Martel

Contact: Nathalie Corbeil

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